

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03454 191242Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14

SSM-05 OMB-01 /073 W

-----113766 191305Z /44

O 191140Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4613

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3454

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PLO, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS USG-PLO MEETING

1. RIGHTIST BEIRUT DAILY AL ANWAR JULY 19 CARRIES STORY  
HEADLINED "A RESPONSIBLE SOURCE TOLD AL ANWAR: A PALESTINIAN  
OFFICIAL MET WITH CARTER'S ENVOY IN LONDON." FOLLOWING IS  
INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: AL ANWAR LEARNED FROM A WELL-INFORMED  
DIPLOMATIC SOURCE THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE MEETING WHICH  
TOOK PLACE IN CAIRO BETWEEN YASSIR ARAFAT AND TWO CONGRESSMEN,  
PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION MADE ANOTHER DIRECT CONTACT  
WITH THE PLO.

A MEETING TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 24, IN LONDON BETWEEN A REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND A PLO REPRESENTATIVE  
FOLLOWING EFFORTS MADE BY AN ARAB STATE WHICH HAS GOOD RELATIONS  
WITH BOTH THE US AND THE PLO COMMAND.

THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THIS MEETING  
WAS WILLIAM SCRANTON, THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA, WHO  
PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE MIDDLE EAST AS PRESIDENT NIXON'S ENVOY  
AND WAS THE ONE WHO MADE THE FAMOUS STATEMENT ABOUT THE NECESSITY  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03454 191242Z

OF A BALANCED AMERICAN POLICY BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL.

THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE WAS BASSIL AKL, WHO OCCUPIES THE POSITION  
OF PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UN AND WHO IS PLAYING A PRINCIPAL  
ROLE IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CAIRO ACCORD.

THE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE TOLD AL ANWAR THAT SCRANTON WAS CARRYING A COPY OF A PALESTINIAN MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER BY CROWN PRINCE FAHD. SCRANTON ASKED THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT CERTAIN POINTS MENTIONED IN THE MEMORANDUM.

THIS MEMORANDUM HAS A STORY. PRINCE FAHD ASKED YASSIR ARAFAT TO FORMULATE A CLEAR AND DETAILED MEMORANDUM ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN POSITION VIS-A-VIS A SETTLEMENT AND ABOUT PLO VIEWS IN RESPECT TO A PALESTINE STATE, PEACE AGREEMENTS AND THE ROLE WHICH THE PLO PRESUMES TO PLAY IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

ARAFAT FORMED THREE GROUPS REPRESENTING VARIOUS IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL OUTLOOKS IN THE PLO AND ASKED EACH GROUP TO PREPARE A MEMORANDUM ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

WHEN THE THREE MEMORANDA WERE SUBMITTED TO ARAFAT, HE WENT INTO SECLUSION AND WROTE A FOURTH ONE WITHOUT ANYBODY IN THE RESISTANCE KNOWING WHAT HE HAS TAKEN FROM EACH OF THE THREE MEMORANDA. THE MEMORANDUM REMAINED SECRET; ONLY PRINCE FAHD KNEW ITS CONTENTS AND HE PRESENTED IT TO PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THEIR RECENT TALKS AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

IT SEEMS THAT THE MEMORANDUM HAS STIRRED THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S INTEREST TO THE POINT OF ASKING FOR CLARIFICATIONS. THIS IS WHAT WAS PRESUMED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN LONDON BETWEEN SCRANTON AND AKL.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03454 191242Z

THIS MEETING, THE WELL-INFORMED SOURCE SAYS, WAS NOT THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE US AND THE PLO, AND WILL NOT BE THE LAST. THE SAME SOURCE DOES NOT EXCLUDE THAT "SOME SORT OF CONTACT" IS TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES DURING THE CYRUS VANCE VISIT TO THE AREA. IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT THE CONTACT BE OPEN, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT IT BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE PERSONALLY. IT IS MOST PROBABLE THAT ONE OF HIS ASSISTANTS WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM IN HIS TORU WILL MAKE SUCH A CONTACT. END QUOTE.  
PARKER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BEIRUT03454  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770256-0970  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770745/aaaabmfr.tel  
**Line Count:** 105  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 99731d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1823707  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS USG-PLO MEETING  
**TAGS:** PDIP, LE, US, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/99731d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009